

Appl. No. : 09/980,559
Filed : May 14, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 12-36 without prejudice, amend Claims 2-5 and 37, and add Claims 38 and 39.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes human hepatitis C virus of genotype 2a, said molecule capable of expressing said virus when transfected into cells and further capable of infectivity in vivo. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said molecule encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or encodes an amino acid sequence that differs from that of SEQ ID NO: 2 by < 2 % at the amino acid level.
3. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or comprises a nucleic acid sequence that differs from that of SEQ ID NO: 1 by < 2% at the nucleotide level.
4. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2 or 38 ~~1~~.
5. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3 or 39.
6. (Original) An RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claim 4.
7. (Original) An RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claim 5.
8. (Original) A cell transfected with the DNA construct of claim 4.
9. (Original) A cell transfected with the DNA construct of claim 5.
10. (Original) A cell transfected with the RNA transcript of claim 6.
11. (Original) A cell transfected with the RNA transcript of claim 7.
- 12-36 (Canceled)
37. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, 3, 38, or 39 ~~1~~ suspended in a suitable amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or excipient.
38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein said molecule encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
39. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein said molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.